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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

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November 4, 2003

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

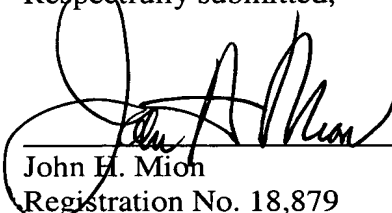
Re: Application of Heinz FOCKE of Verden, Germany;  
Dietrich BELOW of Verden, Germany; and  
Kurt MEYER of Verden, Germany  
**PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR CHECKING ROD-LIKE  
ARTICLES, IN PARTICULAR CIGARETTES**  
Assignee: FOCKE & CO. (GmbH & Co.)  
Our Ref: Q-78288

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including seventeen (17) pages of specification including twenty-one (21) claims, an Abstract of the Disclosure and six (6) sheets of formal drawing (Figs. 1-6). **The filing fee, together with the executed Declaration and Power of Attorney, will be submitted at a later date with the other required fees.**

Priority is claimed from November 12, 2002, based on German Application No. 102 52 913.2. **The certified copy of the priority document will be submitted at a later date.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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John H. Mion  
Registration No. 18,879

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 4, 2003

17858 U.S.PTO  
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